

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: DOHERTY, Donal et al. Conf.: *[Signature]*  
Appl. No.: New Group:  
Filed: April 26, 2001 Examiner:  
For: A TRANSACTION SYSTEM

JCG73 U.S. PTO  
09/841872  
04/26/01

L E T T E R

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

April 26, 2001

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 119 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a), the applicant(s) hereby claim(s) the right of priority based on the following application(s):

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Filed</u>
IRELAND	S2000/0104	February 2, 2000
PCT	PCT/IE01/00014	February 2, 2001

A certified copy of the above-noted application(s) is(are) attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By *[Signature]* Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463

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JAK/cqc  
1817-0109P

Attachment

BSKB 703-205-8000  
DOHERTY et al  
1817-0109P  
April 26, 2001  
1081



Patents Office  
Government Buildings  
Hebron Road  
Kilkenny

JC973 U.S.P.T.O.  
09/841872  
04/26/01

I HEREBY CERTIFY that annexed hereto is a true copy of documents filed in connection with the following patent application:

Application No. S2000/0104

Date of Filing 2 February 2000

Applicant DONAL DOHERTY, an Irish Citizen of 72 Foxrock Manor, Leopardstown Road, Dublin 18, Ireland; JOSEPH BRENNAN, an Irish Citizen of Monaloe Park Road, Blackrock, County Dublin, Ireland; CHRISTOPHER SIMMS, a British Citizen of 57 Lambourne Wood, Brennanstown Road, Dublin 18, Ireland.

Dated this 6 day of February 2001.

*coleau*  
An officer authorised by the  
Controller of Patents, Designs and Trademarks.

PATENTS ACT 1992

The Applicant(s) named herein hereby request(s)  
[ ] the grant of a patent under Part II of the Act  
[ X ] the grant of a short-term patent under Part III of the  
Act  
on the basis of the information furnished hereunder.

**1. Applicant(s)**

DOHERTY Donal  
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an Irish Citizen  
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**2. Title of Invention**

A shopping system

**3. Declaration of Priority on basis of previously filed application(s) for same invention (Sections 25 & 26)**

<u>Previous Filing Date</u>	<u>Country in or for which filed</u>	<u>Filing No.</u>
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**4. Identification of Inventor(s)**

Name(s) and addressee(s) of person(s) believed by the Applicant(s) to be the inventor(s)

Donal Doherty  
an Irish Citizen of 72 Foxrock Manor, Leopardstown Road, Dublin 18  
Joseph Brennan,  
an Irish Citizen of Monaloe Park Road, Blackrock, Co Dublin  
Christopher Simms  
a British Citizen of 57 Lambourne Wood, Brennanstown Road, Dublin 18

5. Statement of right to be granted a patent (Section 17(2) (b))

6. Items accompanying this Request

S 000104

- (i)  prescribed filing fee (IRP 50)
- (ii)  specification containing a description and claims
- specification containing a description only
- Drawings referred to in description or claims
- (iii)  An abstract
- (iv)  Copy of previous application(s) whose priority is claimed
- (v)  Translation of previous application whose priority is claimed
- (vi)  Authorisation of Agent (this may be given at 8 below if this Request is signed by the Applicant(s))

7. Divisional Application(s)

The following information is applicable to the present application which is made under Section 24 -

Earlier Application No.  
Filing Date:

8. Agent

The following is authorised to act as agent in all proceedings connected with the obtaining of a patent to which this request relates and in relation to any patent granted -

Name & Address

Cruickshank & Co. at their address recorded for the time being in the Register of Patent Agents is hereby appointed Agents and address for service, presently 1 Holles Street, Dublin 2.

9. Address for service (if different from that at 8)

Signed Cruickshank & Co.

By:-

*Lorraine O'grady*

Executive.

Agents for the Applicant

Date February 02, 2000.



S 000104

- 1 -

"A Shopping System"

The present invention relates to trading in a communications system. The invention relates in particular to a system for trading using wireless application technology

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Remote shopping in the sense that the customer is not viewing goods or services directly but is buying the goods or services either from a catalogue, for example, through the mail or, as is becoming more and more the case, on the Internet or other communication links. As communications utilising wireless applications protocol

10 (WAP) become more prevalent, the amount of trading that will be carried out in this way will increase and indeed is already increasing exponentially. The growth of eCommerce is likely to change the way people buy goods and services. All one can say is that it is increasing at an exponential rate and all the signs are that it will continue to increase for the foreseeable future.

15

The term "shopping" is used in this specification in the broadest sense, namely, for the obtaining of distribution of, brokerage of, payment of, sale of, and service of goods and services as well as including the various transactions involved in and carrying out this "shopping" where they are defined as described above.

20

In this specification, the term "computer" is used to encompass not just simply computers as we know them, but any device capable of storing and transmitting information such as a mobile phone with memory and indeed any other similar device.

25

Statements of Invention

According to the invention, there is provided a method of trading in a communications system including a communications network connecting:-

30

a plurality of merchant computers;

a plurality of customer computers; and

a broker computer;

comprising the steps of:-

- 5        downloading from the customer computer a desired shopping list including supply preferences to the broker;
- the broker computer sending the shopping list to each merchant computer with a quotation request;
- 10      the merchant computer sending the quotations back to the broker computer;
- the broker computer preparing a selected shopping list using customer supply preferences; and
- 15      downloading the selected shopping list to the customer computer.

In the method, the additional steps are often performed of:-

- 20      the customer computer preparing a shopping basket from the selected shopping list; and
- using the shopping list to trade with the merchants.
- 25      Alternatively, the customer computer can download the shopping basket to the broker and the broker can transmit the relevant portion of the shopping basket to the merchant. In this latter way of carrying out the invention, the broker informs the customer computer in relation to delivery and so on.
- 30      It is also envisaged that the broker computer may conduct a payment transaction with the customer computer and each of the merchant computers.

Alternatively, the payment transaction can be carried out with the network supplier.

Ideally, the broker always uses the customer supply preference to obtain the quotations.

5 In one embodiment of the invention, the broker computer stores in a database supply preferences of each customer for future transmitting.

In this latter embodiment, the broker computer may store previous purchases by the customer to allow a database of preferences to be built up.

10 **Detailed Description of the Invention**

The invention will be more clearly understood from the following description of an embodiment thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing and to the subsequent flowcharts.

15 In the drawing, referred to as Fig. 1, there is illustrated a plurality of merchant computers identified by the letter M, customer computers by the letter C and a WAP site, all within the one communications network. The WAP site is the site of a broker computer which will contain databases and other information and indeed may have  
20 downloaded into it details of the offers from various merchants.

25 In operation, a customer will prepare a shopping list and will transmit the shopping list to the WAP site and the broker computer will then obtain quotations from the various merchants having regard to the customer shopping list. The shopping list can relate to any product or service for example the list may be a grocery list, retailing, purchasing or manufacturing service, music, gambling or any financial service, but not limited to such. The generation of the shopping list can be easily generated by the customer computer. However, the shopping list can be generated by a communication device having a scanner and this is the subject of a separate co-pending patent application. Having obtained the quotation nearest to the customers requirements, the broker will then transmit the shopping list back to the customer who may then use the shopping list to prepare a shopping basket to transmit either directly to a merchant or back to the broker for the broker to place the necessary order with the merchants.  
30

Ideally, the WAP site will include dynamic brokering software which allows sellers to bid electronically for purchases according to user defined criteria. Thus, for example, dealing purely with supermarket shopping, a number of supermarkets would be subscribers to the WAP site. Then, the data produced by the user is transmitted to the WAP site and thus, for example, a user in a particular area might request to be given a quotation for a shopping basket and whichever retailer supplies the lowest quotation, then the customer's request either the broker or the merchant to supply the goods.

5

10 It will be appreciated that this system can be used on any internet based system or application. It will be appreciated that this site does not necessarily have to be a web site, it is merely a software application that can be used by phone-based units and accessed via the Internet.

15 It will be appreciated that anything from ticketing, gambling, various quotations for purchase of, for example, stocks, traffic news, games, calendars, weather, voice mail, Email, banking and so on, can all be provided within the one site.

20 The following flowchart illustrates one system of purchasing according to the invention.

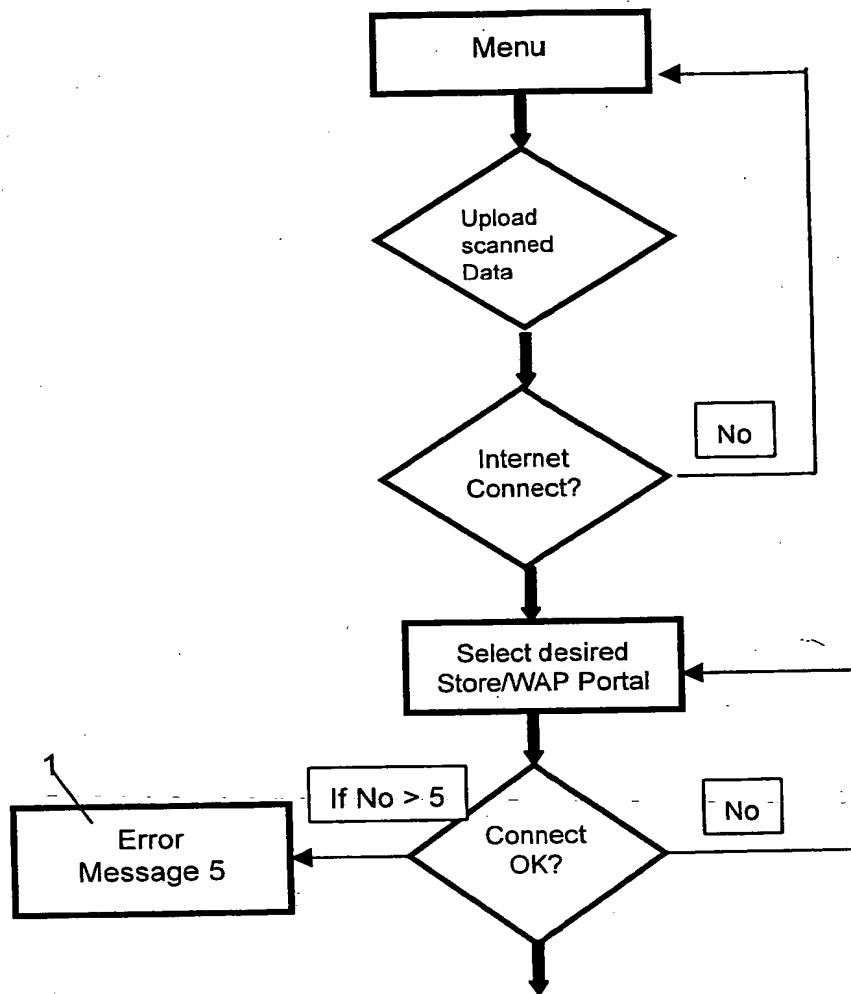
5

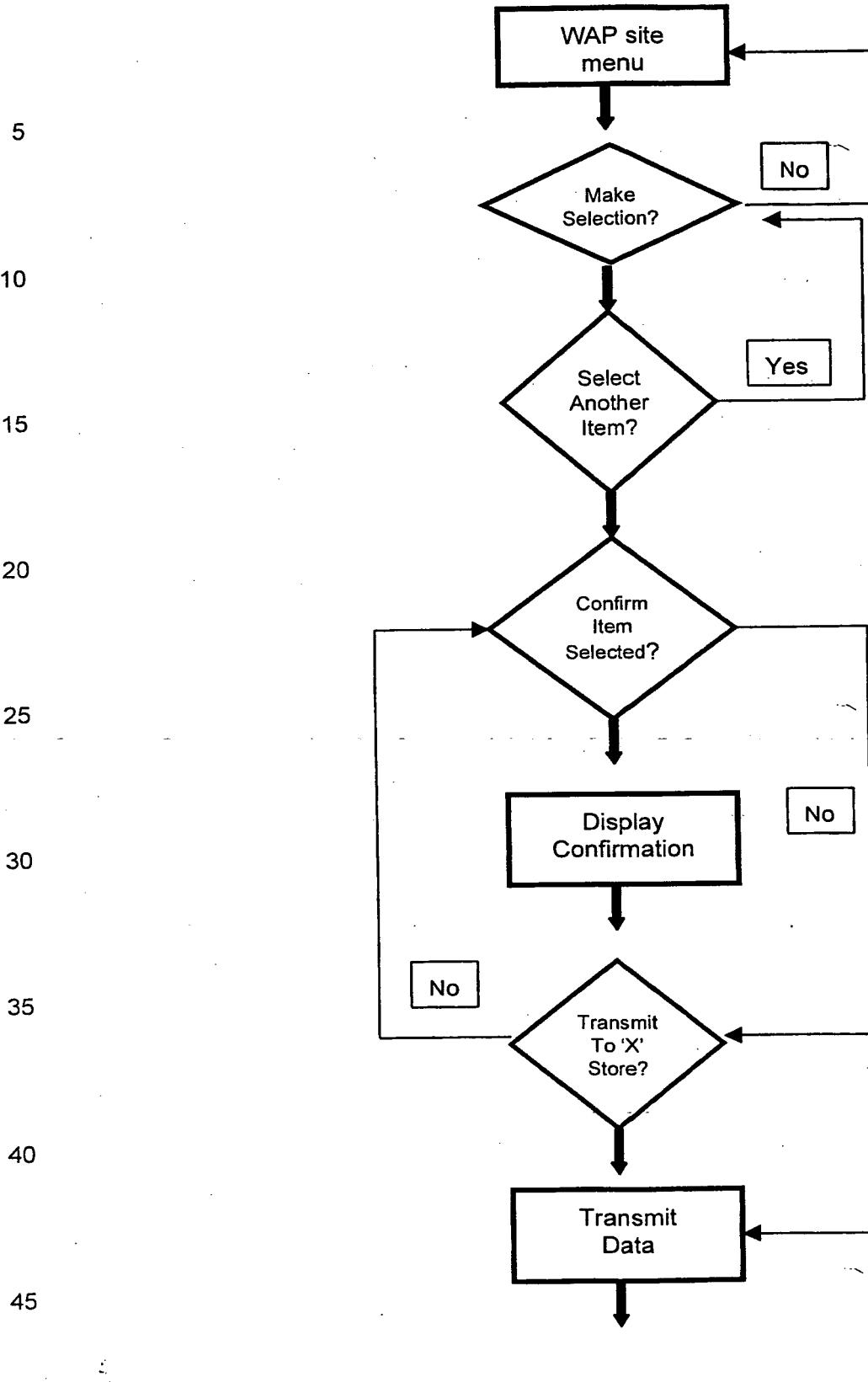
10

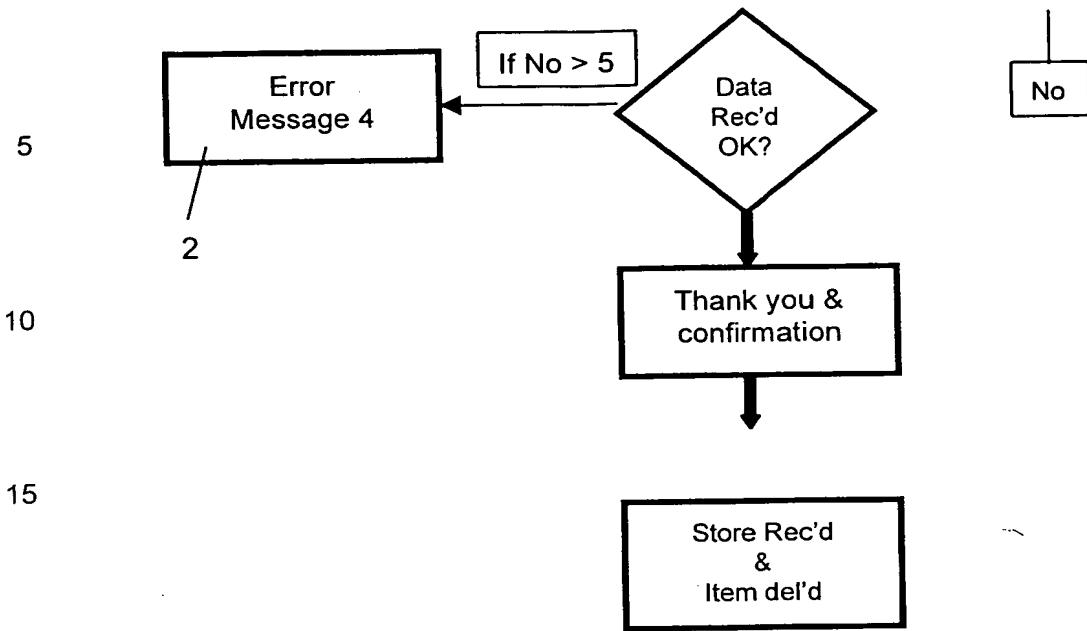
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The error messages given could be, for example:-

## Error Message 1

- 'Socket' error message
- Line fault
- Line busy, select another store

30 and

## Error Message 2

- Data incompatible with store
- Line busy
- Line fault

It is also envisaged that instead of delivering the shopping list to the broker by inputting the actual data, the customer could input the data by scanning a barcode, whether the barcode is the barcode of an existing product or service that the

customer has in his or her possession, a barcode in a catalogue or indeed any other suitable storage of barcodes that may be provided. For example, the customer computer could have a series of barcodes already stored which could be identified either by a simple click operation of a mouse or similar system. However, in the  
5 event of the customer using a scanner, the scanner could, for example, be incorporated into a phone handset which is directly incorporated in the WAP communication system.

It will be appreciated that the second step of the flow diagram can take place at any  
10 stage of the flow diagram process.

In this specification, the terms "comprise", "comprises" and "comprising" are used interchangeably with the terms "include", "includes" and "including", and are to be afforded the widest possible interpretation and vice versa.

15 The invention is not limited to the embodiments hereinbefore described which may be varied in both construction and detail.

20

Fig. 1

